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The University of Dayton

News Release

UNIVERSITY OF DAYTON HOSTS OPEN HOUSE AT NEW RAPID PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT LABORATORY

DAYTON, Ohio, February 9, 1990--The University of Dayton's Center for Advanced Manufacturing will host an open house to show off its new Rapid Prototype Development Laboratory (RPDL) and supporting labs on Tuesday, Feb. 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. in Kettering Laboratories on campus.

Under the largest contract ever sponsored by Ohio's Edison Materials Technology Center (EMTEC), industry and the Air Force have chipped in \$1.1 million in cash and equipment to help UD establish the specialized laboratory.

Rapid prototyping uses a Computer-Aided Design (CAD) system, a laser and a special optical system to produce three-dimensional plastic parts of any geometry in a matter of minutes or hours--usually quicker and cheaper than any machine tool. At the center of the process is a laser beam that "draws" a prototype part on the surface of a bath of liquid photopolymer, hardening one layer at a time and building the part from the bottom up.

In UD's Rapid Prototype Development Laboratory, the University's CAD, laser and polymer experts will work with industries to create three-dimensional CAD models of prototypes, evaluate existing CAD models and new polymers for their use in the system and offer seminars and conferences on the use of the technology. A national conference on prototyping, believed to be the first in the country, will be offered by UD June 4-5 at the Stouffer Dayton Plaza Hotel downtown.

"It (the laboratory) should help Ohio get an edge on the technology," said Frank Moore, director of EMTEC. "It gets at the major problem that prevents American manufacturers from competing well--time to market."

The open house, which is free and open to the public, will include tours of the rapid prototype, computer-aided design, polymer development and laser/optics laboratories and feature a display of products made using the technology.

For information, contact Robert Mott at (513) 229-2966.

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